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REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT TO M-5590
30 JANUARY 1969
PAGE 1

25X1

POL PIPELINE AND STORAGE AREAS
PANHANDLE AREA, NORTH VIETNAM
1700N 1900N

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS NEW SEGMENTS OF THE POL PIPELINE AND 32 PETROLEUM TANK STORAGE AREAS CONSTRUCTED SOUTH OF VINH SINCE THE 1 NOVEMBER 1968 BOMBING HALT.

2. LOCATION:

NORTH VIETNAM PANHANDLE BETWEEN 1700N AND 1900N.

3. BACKGROUND:

PRIOR TO 1 NOVEMBER 1968 FIFTY-ONE PETROLEUM TANK STORAGE AREAS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN 1700N AND 1900N IN NORTH VIETNAM CONTAINING AN ESTIMATED CAPACITY OF 9,971 MT (2,642,315 U.S. GAL). THE MAJORITY OF THESE SITES (31) WERE LOCATED BETWEEN 1800N AND 1900N AND CONTAINED AN ESTIMATED CAPACITY OF 7,806 MT (2,068,590 U.S. GAL); ONLY 20 STORAGE SITES CAPABLE OF HANDLING 2165 MT (573,725 U.S. GAL), WERE LOCATED BELOW 1800N.

4. MISSION READOUT:

PHOTOGRAPHY COVERAGE SINCE [REDACTED] HAS REVEALED THE CONSTRUCTION OF 32 NEW PETROLEUM TANK STORAGE AREAS BETWEEN 1700N AND 1900N WITH A TOTAL ESTIMATED STORAGE CAPACITY OF 7,312 MT (1,937,680 U.S. GAL) AND CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION ON THE CROSS COUNTRY POL PIPELINE ORIGINALLY IDENTIFIED IN

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
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REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT TO M-5590
30 JANUARY 1969
PAGE 2

25X1

25X1

25X1

TWENTY-FOUR OF THE 32 SITES ARE LOCATED BETWEEN 1800N AND THE DMZ AND CONTAIN AN ESTIMATED STORAGE CAPACITY OF 5,542 MT (1,468,630 U.S. GAL). AT LEAST HALF OF THE STORAGE SITES WERE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE TIME OF THEIR IDENTIFICATION IN MID-TO-LATE [] EMPTY EXCAVATIONS RECENTLY PREPARED AT THESE STORAGE SITES UNDER CONSTRUCTION WILL ACCOMODATE A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 279 ADDITIONAL TANKS AND ASSUMING THE CAPACITY OF AN AVERAGE TANK TO BE 12 MT, AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL 8,348 MT (2,212,220 U.S.GAL) COULD BE STORED.

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PRESENTLY THESE STORAGE AREAS RANGE IN SIZE FROM THREE TO APPROXIMATELY 50 TANKS PER STORAGE SITE. SOME SITES, ESPECIALLY IN THE DONG HOI AREA, CONSISTS OF WIDELY DISPERSED SINGLE BUNKERED TANKS. OTHER SITES CONSIST OF MORE CLOSELY BUNKERED PAIRS OF TANKS.

FOUR EXAMPLES OF THESE SITES ARE SHOWN:

THE PHU GIA STORAGE AREA IS LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE RECENTLY IDENTIFIED EXTENSION OF THE NORTH/SOUTH POL PIPELINE AND WILL PROBABLY SERVE AS A PETROLEUM HOLDING SITE SERVICED BY THIS LINE. A PROBABLE CONNECTING LINE BETWEEN THE MAIN LINE AND THE STORAGE AREA IS OBSERVED. PRESENTLY THE STORAGE AREA UNDER CONSTRUCTION CONTAINS 21 PUG TANKS AND 98 EMPTY EXCAVATIONS. THE RELATIVELY RAPID INCREASE IN THE RATE OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE POL PIPELINE IN [] INDICATES THE APPARENT INTENT OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO DEVELOP AND COMPLETE A SYSTEM OF PIPELINE SERVED STORAGE AREAS IN THE BAI DUC THON AREA.

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REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT TO M-5590
30 JANUARY 1969
PAGE 3

25X1

25X1

(THE EXTENSION OF THE LINE SOUTH OF BAI DUC THON TOWARD THE LAOTIAN BORDER HAS BEEN REPORTED THOUGH NOT CONFIRMED AS YET BY NPIC.)

AT THE DONG HOI PETROLEUM PRODUCTS STORAGE AREA SIX TANKS HAVE BEEN BUNKERED IN THREE EXCAVATIONS. THESE EXCAVATIONS WERE DUG BY HAND, AS THE GRAPHIC SHOWS. PERSONNEL ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DIGGING TWO EXCAVATIONS AND A THIRD ONE HAS ALREADY BEEN PREPARED WITH ONE TANK IN PLACE. THIS STORAGE AREA IS NOW SERVED BY FLEXIBLE HOSE JOINING THE STORAGE SITE TO A BUNKERING PIER ON THE WEST BANK OF THE KIEN GIANG.

AT THE VAN XUAN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS STORAGE AREA STORAGE, TANKS WERE EARTH-COVERED BY SCRAPERS ON BULLDOZERS PROBABLY AS A MORE EXPEDIENT METHOD OF STORAGE SITE PREPARATION. NOT ALL TANKS AT THIS SITE WERE BUNKERED BY THIS METHOD.

AT THE XOM CON GIAU PETROLEUM PRODUCTS STORAGE AREA 36 TANKS HAVE BEEN BUNKERED IN PAIRS. THIS IS ONE OF THE LARGER OF THE NEW STORAGE SITES AND IS LOCATED ON ROUTE 101 ONLY THIRTEEN NM NORTH OF THE LAOTIAN BORDER.

5. REMARKS:

DURING [] A LARGE NUMBER OF PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BEING MOVED SOUTH BY VEHICLE AND TO A LESSER EXTENT BY RAIL. AT THE SAME TIME SEVERAL PARTIALLY UNDERGROUND STORAGE AREAS IN THE HANOI/HAIPHONG REGION HAVE RECENTLY BEEN OBSERVED BEING DEACTIVATED AND THE UNDERGROUND TANKS EXHUMED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THESE TANKS ARE BEING RELOCATED IN THE SOUTH IN ADDITION TO RECENTLY FABRICATED AND IMPORTED TANKS.

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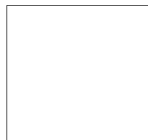
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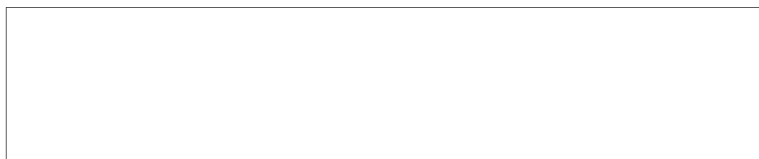
ATTACHMENT TO M-5590
30 JANUARY 1969
PAGE 4

25X1

25X1

CONSTRUCTION OF A NUMBER OF PETROLEUM STORAGE FACILITIES RELATIVELY NEAR THE LAOTIAN BORDER AND THE DMZ HAS PROBABLY BEEN NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE RECENT INCREASE IN VEHICLE ACTIVITY IN THESE AREAS. ESTABLISHING FIXED STORAGE AREAS SUCH AS THESE COULD BE AN INDICATION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE INTENT TO CONTINUE THIS RECENT HIGH LEVEL OF RESUPPLY ACTIVITY.

MISSIONS:



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MAP REFERENCE: USAF PC-J11D

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